**READING #4 DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**Consider how Eliezer struggles with his faith.**

* On Rosh Hashanah, Eliezer says, “My eyes had opened and I was alone, terribly alone in a world without God, without man. Without love or mercy. I was nothing but ashes now.” Eliezer is describing himself at a religious service attended by ten thousand men, including his own father. What do you think he means when he says that he is alone? In what sense is he alone?
* Why does Eliezer direct his anger toward God rather than the Germans? What does his anger suggest about the depths of his faith?
* At the beginning of *Night*, Eliezer describes himself as someone who believes “profoundly”. How have his experiences at Auschwitz affected that faith?

**Discuss Eliezer’s relationship with his father.**

* Why does Eliezer describe himself as “afraid” of having to wish his father a happy New Year?
* Describe the encounter between father and son after the services. Why does Eliezer say that the two of them “had never understood one another so clearly”?
* How does Eliezer respond when he fears his father has been “selected”? When he discovers that he has indeed been “selected”? When he learns his father has avoided the “final selection”?
* Why did his father give him the spoon and the knife as his inheritance? What is the significance of such a gift in Auschwitz?
* How has the relationship between Eliezer and his father changed during their time at Auschwitz? What has each come to represent to the other?

**Consider how Eliezer and his father make a decision that will decide their fate.**

* What choices are open to Eliezer and his father when the camp is evacuated?
* How is the decision to leave made? Who makes the choice?
* Is it the “right” choice? Or is it an example of a “choiceless choice”?
* How does the decision help us understand why many survivors attribute their survival to luck?